



Pooh Bear's News

April 2008

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WELCOME TO THE END OF SEASON EDITION

GOLD

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Chris Flemming and his remarkable women's open boat crew swept all before them at the recent Australian titles in Perth to win their final by five boat lengths. A fitting result for a crew that has worked so hard over the last few years. This is the first open surf boat gold medal won by a South Curly crew at the Aussie titles since 1989 and before that 1952.

Take a bow Kate Mortimer, Ellie Gillis, Amy Chaffy and Lara Raymond, you were fantastic all season. Enormous credit to the success of these athletes must go to Chris Flemming (Ribbs) who has swept, trained and mentored this crew to wins at the Branch, the State, the ASRL Aussie titles and the Australian Surf titles. You can't do any better and it demonstrates their total dominance over their opposition all season. And, for good measure, this crew only had to complete the course in the final of the Ocean Thunder to win that event too. Unfortunately, Chris temporarily thought he was a submarine pilot and put them under a wave and they rolled.

Chris had further success at the Perth Aussies, winning Gold in the 180 year Masters and silver in the 140 years Masters surfboats.

The 180 crew comprising Bob Buckingham, Bill Good, Mark Campbell and Anthony Mulvey have won gold in three of the last four Aussie titles.

The 140 crew, who ran the winners the closest of seconds comprised John Oxley, Joel Lategan, Pete Johnson and Elton Mackay.

Special mention also goes to the Tea Bags who are a crew of young men comprising Scott Taylor, Ben Richards, Matt King and Billy Clifton trained by Rob Lowery and swept by Chris Flemming. This crew made it through to the last 12 in the open Reserves which is a huge effort. This is clearly a crew with great potential, they are sure to taste their share of success in the coming seasons if they stay with it.

All of the crews that represented South Curly at the Perth Aussies and throughout the season were very well prepared and expertly swept by two of the best sweeps in the business in Chris Flemming and Mark (Angus) Spiteri who, together with their crews, put in an enormous amount of work over yet another long season.

For those of you that do not know, surf boat racing is extremely arduous and competitive and a lot can depend upon luck on the day each South Curly crew who competed at the Aussies were very competitive and acquitted themselves with distinction in their respective divisions.

Different conditions combined with a fair share of the luck may well have seen more of our crews medal at the Aussies.

It seems to me that surf boat racing is much like giving birth (not that I would know). After each race, as with child birth, the pain is quickly forgotten and you find yourself saddling up for another effort. The great consolation of surf boat racing, which makes it unique, is that you are never beaten. There are plenty of things to blame such as: bad alley; freak shore break; missed start; crab; dodgy equipment; bad hair day etc. The excuses are endless and they allow each loss to be rationalised to the point that you are convinced that you were a sure thing beaten. This must be the reason why so many people take up the sport.

Apart from surf boat racing, the Club was also represented at the Aussies by Kevin Moffat in the Masters division of the Ironman event. Kevin finished a creditable seventh in his age group after taking out silver in the event at the State titles.

The success of South Curly competitors at the Aussies did not end there. Nicholas Dawe, a former South Curly member and son of current member Michael Dawe, won gold in the under 23's men ski event. Well done Nick, now come back home.

Marquis of Queensbury (or the punch-up at the O K Corral)

Did you see the left hook that Barry Hall of the Swans planted on his West Coast Eagles opponent in the AFL competition last week? It was a ripper and it earned big Barry a seven week holiday at the judiciary. The incident was a clear demonstration of the physical dominance of Sydney athletes over their Western Australian counterparts.

Apparently, an equally impressive display of pugilistic dominance over a bunch of hapless sandgroper bouncers was instigated by a rather cavalier Termite at a late night drinking venue in Perth which was left to a few of his unsuspecting Curly boat rowing buddies to finish. From all reports, the most impressive pugilistic display was put on one of our girl rowers, lets call her Allison, which provides further proof to the adage "that the female of the species is more deadly than the male" (unless you are a funnel web spider). Anyway, back to Termite, who incidentally, is no funnel web spider. I understand that the usually placid and peace loving athletes that comprise the South Curly boat rowing fraternity, who are normally in bed by 8pm, are forever indebted to Termite, for providing them with an experience that they may never have had without him. I am certain that they will be forever grateful but they will probably pass up future opportunities for a casual drink with him for reasons of personal safety, unless, of course Allison is along to protect them.

Liquor license

The Club has finally applied for a Liquor (Function) Licence which should be in place on 5th May 2008 when the matter will be heard in the Licensing Court of NSW. Brynden Russell is listed as the applicant (Licensee) due to his unblemished record and unselfish attitude.

The authorities have, for the last ninety years, applied the Nelson touch (Nelson had one eye) to our hitherto unlicensed state and it is probably high time that we became legal although for the descendants of Ned Kelly, it will probably feel un-Australian.

Surf Awards

Our Club trainers, Bryn Russell and Craig Blake had another big year and were responsible for 32 successful Bronze Medallion graduates during the 2007/2008 season for the Club. According to Bryn, it is likely that 90% of these Bronze graduates will filter through to our burgeoning patrol rosters. A large number of these Bronze graduates have come from the ranks of our Nipper parents which is further testimony to the benefits of full integration of the Nipper movement with the Senior Club.

Bryn and Craig also successfully trained a number of ARC candidates during the season. Our Junior members were not neglected either with Bryn and Craig, together with assistance from Bucko and Gus, successfully training a large contingent of Surf Certificate candidates. According to Bryn, who has a good finger on the pulse when it comes to our young members, the Club will have upwards of 40 Cadet members next season which is unprecedented in my time at the Club. Plans are well advanced to acquire sufficient craft to accommodate these young members who will be the future of the Club.

Nippers

The season for Nippers ended on Sunday 9th March 2008. Darrin Stoker, who does such a good job as president of our Nippers, reports that this season was a very good one for the Club which was strongly represented at most Nipper carnivals during the season.

Jordie Skelton and Peter Yeats, have done a great job as the principal trainers and if I have left anybody unacknowledged please do not be offended.

Darrin reports that the Club will have a strong group of 14 year olds next season which supports Bryn's claims concerning the likely number of Cadets at the Club next season.

The Nippers are such an important part of the succession in the Club and it is great to see the hard work of our Nipper leaders over recent years starting to show dividends.

We even have a Master's boat crew comprising Nipper dads. Lets see if we can get another one. What about some of the Nipper mums getting a crew together?

Important dates and forthcoming events

- Presentation night will be held at the Club on Saturday, 26th April when trophies, certificates and awards will be presented with the exception of the Honour Blazer which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sunday, 24th August 2008.

Proceedings will get under way at 6.30 pm on 26th April and food and refreshments will be available.

- The 90th Anniversary Ball will be held on Saturday 10th May 2008 at the Manly Golf Club on Balgowlah Road.. Tickets are available from Michelle Lowery. Final number and funds must be in to Michelle by 26th April for catering purposes.

It will be a great night and should not be missed. Please contact Michelle now if you have not done so already and help make her job a little easier.

- The 90th Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 24th August, at 10 am at the Club hall as usual.
- The last patrol for the 2007/2008 season will be held on Sunday, 27th April, 2008.

Development Application Up-Date

We were ambushed at the March IHAP meeting and, acting upon professional advice, we have withdrawn our Application rather than having it refused. This is a tactical measure which will allow us the time to negotiate with Council and the Community before resubmission.

Club membership has grown nearly four-fold over the last seven years and our current facilities are simply not up to scratch. Improvements are sorely needed to accommodate the requirements of our growing membership.

Some of the objections raised against our Application at the IHAP meeting were laughable. Basically, the Club's very existence on the spot that it has occupied for seventy years is the principal objection. Apparently, it interferes with the view of some of the yuppies that have blown in over recent years. One of the suggestions was that we should move our equipment off-site. Don't get me started.

Boat Ramp

According to Council, construction on our long awaited boat ramp will begin over the winter months and be completed by the start of next season. The new concrete ramp will accommodate access to the beach for our surf-boats, our IRB and the Council quad bike.

Lets hope that Council does not let us down.

Rotary Club to Pub Fun Run

For the past few years the Club has provided marshals for this event which is promoted by Brookvale Rotary and held during August each year. The Run starts at Dee Why Surf Club and ends at the Newport Arms Hotel and the event is getting bigger and better each year. Usually over 1000 register for the event and Rotary plan to grow the event to 2000 entrants. I also understand that the Manly Daily will promote the event strongly this year.

We will need approximately 12 volunteers to act as marshals for the event for a couple of hours. South Curly is stationed near the finish line at the Newport Arms which is a good spot and you will get to see the competitors struggling up the last hill and be able to grab a beer and a snag at the Arms when it is all over.

The Club receives payment for the provision of marshals and we get to retain 85% of the proceeds of Rotary raffle sales. Your support, when called upon, will be greatly appreciated. Why don't some of you get a team together to participate in the race? It will be good pre-season training for the boat competitors.

Errol Jones

I know you are thinking that this will be another Errol-bash but that could not be further than the truth.

Poor Errol has not been too well lately and this is written out of sympathy and compassion for his condition. For those of you that do not know, Errol recently went to hospital to have a few barnacles scraped from his leather-like hide. During the procedure, one of Errol's legs blew up and it looked like it belonged to the Michelin Man it was so bloated. This condition was caused by an attack of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) which can be very dangerous and Errol was promptly prescribed a course of blood thinning medication, which is another story altogether. Thankfully, after a few tribulations, when Errol's blood was reduced to the consistency of water, Errol is now on the mend and will soon be back to (almost) brand new.

One matter of concern though, is that Errol is a frequent traveller and is often required to travel by air to various exotic locations in the Pacific in the course of his work. You may be aware that air travel is a problem for travellers who are prone to DVT and, as a consequence, Errol has (enthusiastically) taken to wearing nylon stockings at every opportunity. I was talking to Errol's wife, Justine, the other day and she confided that her fishnet stockings had gone missing from her lingerie drawer and she suspected that the culprit may be Errol. I must confess that I immediately got a visual image of Errol slithering into Justine's fishnets and poncing about in front of the mirror. It was a frightening thought, but it did linger.

I would suggest to Errol, that given the thinness of his blood and, out of consideration for the cabin crew of his aircraft, he should make an appointment with Craig Bowra to have himself strapped up like an Egyptian mummy before he undertakes any future air travel.

This precaution just may eliminate the possibility of Errol dissolving into a red stain on his airline seat which would be a traumatic experience for the poor hosties not to mention the cleaners. (I just got another frightening visual at this thought).

Dicky Roberts

Everybody knows that Dicky is a great bloke and a dear friend to many of us at the Club including your correspondent. You may also know that Dicky recently clocked over 60 years which is an age where some men take all night to do what they used to do all night. I don't know for certain if Dicky falls into this category but I have heard from a reliable source that Dicky recently took delivery of a mysterious parcel from his good mate Mick who was employed by Pfizer as a Viagra salesman. For many years Viagra (an aid for flagging male virility) was the biggest seller for Pfizer and the biggest customers for the product were drawn from the mature male population which is Dicky's demographic. Apparently, this was no ordinary Viagra. It was a special experimental mixture that had only been used on horses so far and had not yet been released for human consumption. The horse is rather a large animal and, sadly, so was the pill because it was designed to be digested by a horse. This did not concern Dicky however, who threw the large tablet into his mouth with gusto and attempted to swallow it whole, such was his impatience to experience the effects of this super-Viagra. Unfortunately for Dicky, the pill got stuck in his throat where it remained lodged for several hours and no amount of back slapping would dislodge it. Dicky was starting to dribble, he became red in the face and he could barely breathe until a mighty bear hug from big Barry Farrell caused the pill to fly out of his throat and onto the road 100 metres away. Dicky eventually regained his breath and his composure but he never did get to experience the effects of this powerful dose of Viagra as hoped. He did, however, get a stiff neck for a week.

Jokes

I used to have Chicka Kuhn to blame for the poor quality of the jokes but since he departed north for greener pastures I am looking for a replacement. I may have to revert to Genevieve for inspiration. I could do worse. Here we go:

Golfing

A foursome of guys is waiting at the men's tee while another foursome of women is hitting from the ladies' tee.

The ladies are taking their time.

When the final lady is ready to hit the ball, she hacks it ten feet.

She goes over and whiffs it completely.

Then she hacks it another ten feet and finally hacks it another five feet.

She looks up at the patiently waiting men and says apologetically, 'I guess all those f&xxg lessons I took over the winter didn't help.'

One of the men immediately responded, 'Well, there you have it, you should have taken golf lessons instead!'

Before Marriage

John - Ah....At last. I can hardly wait!

Jane - Do you want me to leave?

John - NO! Don't even think about it.

Jane - Do you love me?

John - Of course! Always have and always will!

Jane - Have you ever cheated on me?

John - NO! Why are you even asking?

Jane - Will you kiss me?

John - Every chance I get!

Jane - Will you hit me?

John - Hell no! Are you crazy?

Jane - Can I trust you?

John - Yes.

Jane - Darling!

After Marriage

Read from the bottom back to the top

It was fun being a baby boomer...until now.

Some of the artists of the 60's are revising their hits and new lyrics to accommodate aging baby boomers.

They include:

Herman's Hermits--- Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Walker.

Ringo Starr--- I Get By With a Little Helo From Depends.

The Bee Gees--- How Can You Mend a Broken Hip.

Bobby Darin--- Splish, Splash, I Was Havin' a Flash.

Roberta Flack--- The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face.

Johnny Nash--- I Can't See Clearly Now.

Paul Simon--- Fifty Ways to Lose Your Liver.

The Commodores--- Once, Twice, Three Times to the Bathroom.

Marvin Gaye--- Hear It Through the Grape Nuts.

Procol Harem--- A White Shade of Hair.

Leo Sayer--- You Make Me Feel Like Napping.

The Temptations--- Papa's Got a Kidney Stone.

Abba--- Denture Queen.

Tony Orlando--- Knock 3 Times On The Ceiling If You Hear Me Fall.

Helen Reddy--- I am Woman, Hear Me Snore.

Leslie Gore--- It's My Procedure, and I'll Cry If I Want To.

And my favourite: Willie Nelson--- On the Commode Again.

Two Aboriginals were driving their old Ford Falcon in the outback one day, when off in the distance they saw a police booze bus.

One of them thinks "this is great" and heads straight for it. As they are pulled up, the driver winds his window down and says "Two cans of Emu Export thanks mate!"

The copper looks at him and says "You must be drunk! Get out of the car and blow into this tube for me."

The driver got out of the car and said "Sorry boss, I can't blow in dat. I got a letter from the doc saying I'm asthmatic and I'll pass out if I blow in date."

The cop looks at his and with a bemused look says "OK, in these cases we require you to give a blood sample."

"Nah nah sorry boss. Can't be doin' that. I got a letter from do Red Cross saying I'm a Haemophiliac and I could bleed to death. Sorry boss, can't do dat," said the driver.

By now the copper is getting fairly irate and finally demands a urine sample for testing. The driver looks at him and says "Sorry boss, can't do that either." The copper says "Surely you can't have a letter for that!!!"

"Bloody oath mate," says the driver,

"It's from Kevin, he has been saying sorry and he says that you whites can't take the piss out of us blackfellas no more."

Taylor made for South Curly

Anne Taylor and her sons, well three of them anyway, seem to have made a home at South Curly and they are more than welcome. Anne is an outstanding patrolling member who can be seen at the beach on most days that patrols are present. Not only can she be seen at the beach, she does every patrol by the book and she is an example to us all.

Scotty, who is the only one of Anne's sons that I really know, is also an outstanding member of the Club. He is a Patrol Captain and he also heads up our IRB's which is pretty impressive for a young guy that is barely 20.

Anne and Scott hold the unique position in the Club of being the only mother and son to have won the Honor Blazer which is a feat that will probably never be repeated.

Congratulations to both of you and thanks for coming to South Curly.

Boshie is having another baby

Joel and Boshie have not wasted any time getting a family together and I recently learned that they are expecting their third child. I also learned that they are contemplating a move to the Sunshine Coast which is a pretty nice place to bring up kids.

The best of luck to both of you.

Club Sponsors

The Club is fortunate to have a group of loyal sponsors who continue to show great generosity to the Club. They are:

- John , Trish and Sean at the Harbord Beach Hotel
- The Directors and friendly staff at the Bendigo Community Bank Harbord
- The Directors and the General Manager of the Harbord Diggers Club
- Freshwater Financial Services
- Darren Jones and family
- Chris Fleming and Mark Spiteri at Manly Aluminium Windows
- Warringah Council
- Roche
- Wong & Mayes
- The Allan Hall Partnership

And many other who generously make donations to the Club and provide their support when requested.

A heart-felt thank you from all of us at the Club.

Thanks for the season just gone and we hope to see you again in the next.

CHEERS